

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1082

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH ENERGY COMMISSION'S AMERICAN CONSULTANT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SWEDISH MEDIA REPORTED MARCH 16 THE RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR TORBJORN WESTERMARK FROM A WORKING GROUP OF THE ROYAL ENERGY COMMISSION. WESTERMARK, A RESPECTED NUCLEAR CHEMIST AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, RESIGNED BECAUSE HE "DOES NOT HAVE THE TIME AND ENERGY TO ANSWER" THE ENERGY COMMISSION'S AMERICAN CONSULTANT DEAN ABRAHAMSON'S ARGUMENTS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY. SPECIFICALLY, ABRAHAMSON IS ACCUSED OF SUGGESTING NAMES OF PERSONS TO REVIEW THE STATE POWER BOARD'S APPLICATION TO LOAD THE RINGHALS 3 REACTOR WHO DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY SCIENTIFIC REPUTATION, KNOWLEDGE AND OVERVIEW FOR THE TASK. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: THE NEWEST STRIFE IS ANOTHER INCIDENT IN THE TURBULENT LIFE OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION. THE PRESENT ISSUE IS WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD APPROVE THE STATE POWER BOARD'S APPLICATION TO LOAD RINGHALS 3 (REACTOR NUMBER 7). IT IS READY TO BE CORE-LOADED, BUT MUST MEET BOTH REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONDITIONS ACT BEFORE START-UP. THE ENERGY COMMISSION TOOK THE UNUSUAL
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STEP OF SUBMITTING THE STATE POWER BOARD'S APPLICATION (AND THE NUCLEAR FUEL SAFETY PROJECT (KBS) REPORT ON STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL) TO INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT. THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN WESTERMARK AND ABRAHAMSON STEMS, IN PART, FROM THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WHO SHOULD REVIEW THE RINGHALS 3 APPLICATION AND THE KBS PROJECT.

3. ABRAHAMSON, WHO CAME FROM THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, WAS APPOINTED EXPERT CONSULTANT TO THE ENERGY COMMISSION IN 1977. HIS ANTINUCLEAR STANCE IS WIDELY KNOWN AND ON JANUARY 4, 1977, ABRAHAMSON STATED, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SWEDISH PRESS, THAT HE BELIEVED "THE FAST BREED REACTOR WILL NOT GET THE SAME BACKING THAT IT GOT EARLIER. THE LIGHT WATER REACTORS WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT WILL NOT, TO BE SURE, BE SCRAPPED, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT NUCLEAR POWER WILL NOT BE A DOMINATING POWER SOURCE IN THE FUTURE--IT IS OUT."

4. THE LATEST QUARREL IN THE ENERGY COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER HARDENING OF POSITIONS FOR AND AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES. ABRAHAMSON WAS SELECTED AS A CONSULTANT TO THE COMMISSION BY THE CENTER PARTY AND, MOST PROBABLY, WAS EXPECTED TO REFLECT THE BIASES AND ANTINUCLEAR CONCERNS WHICH HE AND THAT PARTY HAVE IN COMMON. END CONFIDENTIAL.
PERRY

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